

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-36 are now present in the application. Claims 1 and 26 have been amended. Claims 1, 16 and 26 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 16-25 are allowed. The Examiner has also indicated that dependent claims 14, 15, and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 9, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,156,983. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1 and 26 have been amended to recite a

combination of elements including "a printed conducting track unit coated on the top surface of said bottom shell".

Applicant respectfully submits that the above combination of elements is fully supported by the specification on page 6, lines 1-24. Applicant respectfully submits that the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1 and 26 is not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Chen discloses a water-proof keyboard. In particular, Chen teaches that the keyboard includes an upper cover 10, keys 11, a rubber elastic body 12, a circuit unit 13, a seat 14, which are fixed sequentially (see FIG. 2; col. 2, lines 7-10). Chen fails to teach "a printed conducting track unit coated on the top surface of said bottom shell" as recited in claims 1 and 26. Instead, Chen only teaches that the circuit unit 10 is placed and fixed on the seat 14 and nowhere does Chen teach that the circuit unit 10 is coated on the top surface of the seat 14. Accordingly, Chen fails to teach each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1 and 26.

In addition, the coated structure of the printed conducting track unit recited in claims 1 and 26 provides for a design which facilitates the assembly and reduces the manufacturing cost. This compact coated structure is not found in Chen. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 8, 26, 28, 29, 32, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Spratte, U.S. Patent No. 6,580,043. Claims 7 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Spratte, and further in view of English et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,430,263. Claims 10-13 and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Spratte, and further in view of Lima et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,219,067. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned above, Chen fails to teach each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1 and 26.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Spratte, English, and Lima, these references have only been relied on for their teachings related to dependent claims of the present invention. These references also fail to disclose the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 26. Accordingly, these references fail to cure the deficiencies of Chen.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, none of those references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 26 or their dependent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

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Reply filed:

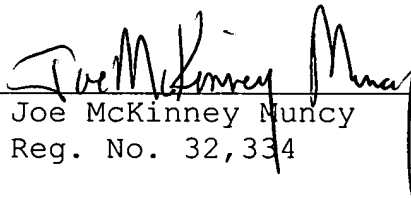
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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